



TITLE:

<Note> Discriminating Saba and Landolphia Seeds in Chimpanzee Feces at Mahale

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Table 1. Details of encounters with crocodiles, Mt. Assirik, Senegal.

Date	Habitat type	Place	Length (m)	Comments
28-Apr-76	??	Hidden Valley	1.2–1.5	Dead in pool; in steep-sided bat grotto; maggots
10-Jun-76	??	Stella's Valley	??	In stream
14-Feb-77	W	Lower Lion Valley	1.5	Flees from bank into pool
07-Mar-77	G	Tsetse Plains	small	Only intermittent pools but some running water
04-Jan-78	F	Elephant Rib Valley	1.5	Slides into pool
02-Nov-78	F	Elephant Rib Valley	0.9–1.2	Beginning of forest
13-Feb-79	F	Middle Lion Valley	1.2	Stream; upstream from bathing pool
14-Mar-79	G	Tsetse Plains	0.6	Pool
25-Apr-79	F	Middle Lion Valley	??	Old Camp bathing pool

Habitat type: F = forest, G = grassland, W = woodland

habitat types. All crocodiles were immature, ranging from 1–1.5 m long. All retreated upon encountering us, into whatever water was available.

Lacking permanent surface water, Assirik is probably too dry to maintain a population of crocodiles, but it seems likely that young crocodiles disperse in the rainy season up the rain-swollen tributaries of the Gambia River, bringing some of them into the main valleys of the study area. Those that did not retreat with the advancing dry season were probably trapped in diminishing pools, where they were temporarily more exposed and observable, but ultimately perished.

Are crocodiles a predatory threat to the Assirik chimpanzees? Perhaps.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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<NOTE>

Discriminating *Saba* and *Landolphia* Seeds in Chimpanzee Feces at Mahale

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INTRODUCTION

The fruits of *Saba comorensis* (local name, ilombo) and *Landolphia owariensis* (local name, mpila) are often enthusiastically eaten by chimpanzees at Mahale, and they have been classified as a “major food” and “important food,” respectively, by Nishida (1991). Both of them belong to the family Apocynaceae with liana life forms, and they share some common characteristics. However, the



Figure 1. Seeds of *Saba* (above) and *Landolphia* (below). Although the former is slightly larger than the latter, it is not easy to distinguish between the seeds in chimpanzee feces.

fruits of *Saba* and *Landolphia* are easily distinguishable by their color and size: the ripe fruit-shell color of *Saba* is yellow, while that of *Landolphia* is orange; the color of the fruit pulp is yellow in the former and white in the latter, and the fruit size of the former (typically ca. 7–10 cm in fruit-shell diameter) is about twice as large as that of the latter (ca. 3.5–5 cm). Therefore, no researchers would confuse these species when they actually observe chimpanzees eating these fruits.

However, it is very difficult to identify the seeds found in chimpanzee feces (see McGrew *et al.* 2009 for the standard protocol for fecal analysis). Chimpanzees typically swallow seeds of both species together with the fruit pulp. Seeds are then defecated intact in their feces. The shapes and colors of their seeds resemble each other and are thus not easily distinguishable (Figure 1). Because these fruits are available in the same season, it is also not possible to discriminate them by season. Therefore, *Saba* and *Landolphia* were clumped together in most previous studies on seed dispersal and fecal analyses at Mahale (Nishida & Norikoshi n.d.1, n.d.2; Takasaki 1983; Takasaki & Uehara 1984). However, because *Saba* is the most important fruit species for Mahale chimpanzees, it may be useful to develop some simple criteria to distinguish its seeds from those of *Landolphia*. The *Saba*-*Landolphia* problem in fecal analyses may go beyond Mahale, because different species of these two genera are known to coexist in some other chimpanzee study sites (e.g., *Saba senegalensis* and *Landolphia heudelotii* are eaten by Assirik chimpanzees in Senegal: McGrew *et al.* 1988).

METHODS

I collected 25 *Saba* seeds and 28 *Landolphia* seeds from ripe fruits (five to six fruits each) of these plants in December 2013 at the Mahale Mountains National Park, Tanzania. The fruits were collected from the middle of the home range of the habituated M group. The sampling was performed opportunistically because of the difficulty in randomly collecting fruits from the high canopy where these fruits are typically seen. After removing the fruit pulp and air-drying the seeds, I measured the longest axis (hereafter “length”) and the second longest axis (orthographical to the longest axis, hereafter “width”) of each

seeds by using a vernier caliper to the nearest 0.05 mm. Linear discriminant analyses were then conducted using R software (version 2.12.1) with these length and width measures.

I also collected 24 *Saba*/*Landolphia*-shaped seeds from a chimpanzee fecal clump found during the same study period. After washing and air-drying, their length and width were measured in the same way. The size data for these seeds were used in order to trial-run the applicability of the analysis.



A Mahale chimpanzee feeding on a *Saba* fruit.

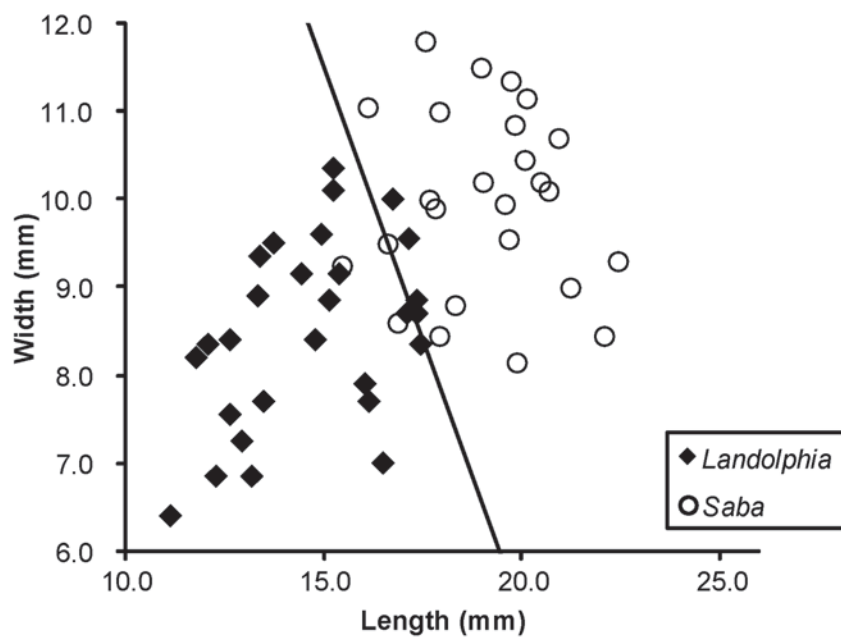


Figure 2. Length-width plots of known *Saba* and *Landolphia* seeds. The line is the discrimination line between the two species (i.e., $D_{sp} = 0$). Although a few seeds of each species are inaccurately judged as the other, 88.68% of the data points are plotted on the correct sides of the line.

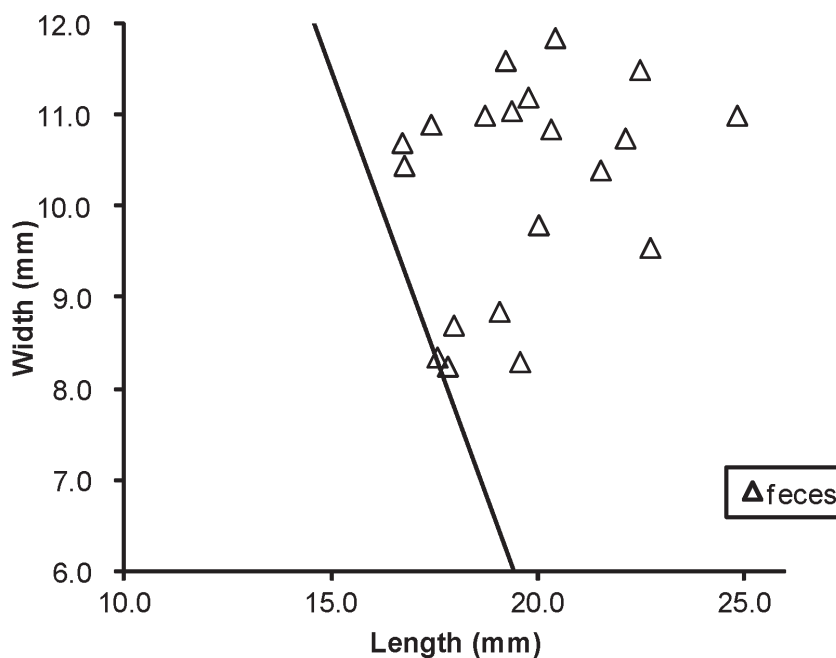


Figure 3. Length-width plots of unknown *Saba/Landolphia*-shaped seeds from chimpanzee feces. The line is the same discrimination line (i.e., $D_{sp} = 0$) as that in Figure 2. Almost all seeds are plotted on the side of *Saba*.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The length and width data for known *Saba* and *Landolphia* seeds are plotted in Figure 2. *Saba* seeds averaged $19.06 (\pm 1.81 \text{ SD})$ mm in length and $9.97 (\pm 1.05)$ mm in width, while *Landolphia* seeds averaged $14.64 (\pm 1.92)$ mm by $8.49 (\pm 1.05)$ mm. *Saba* tends to have a longer and wider shape than *Landolphia*, but there is still some overlap in their sizes. It seems that length has less overlap than width (thus, *Saba* is relatively longer and ovoid than *Landolphia*).

Linear discriminant analysis yielded the discriminating function of the two species (D_{sp}) in the following formula:

$$D_{sp}(L, W) = -0.455 \times L - 0.367 \times W + 11.06$$

where L is the length and W is the width of a seed in millimeters. When the D_{sp} value is negative, the seed is judged to be that of *Saba*, and when it is positive, judged as *Landolphia*. Re-evaluation of the original data set in this formula resulted in the misidentification of three *Saba* seeds as *Landolphia* and three *Landolphia* as *Saba*. Thus, discrimination accuracy was 88.68% (47/53).

When length/width values of the 24 unidentified *Saba/Landolphia*-shaped seeds from a chimpanzee fecal clump were assigned to this formula, all but one was judged as *Saba* (Figure 3). I assume that the fecal

clump actually contained only *Saba* seeds (i.e., one was misjudged as *Landolphia*) for the following reasons. First, the one judged as *Landolphia* was almost on the border of these two species ($D_{sp} = 0.002$), and the proportion of seeds judged as *Saba* ($95.83\% = 23/24$) was higher than the discrimination accuracy of 88.68% (thus, it is very likely that a small portion was misjudged). Second, because chimpanzees usually swallow multiple seeds of a *Saba/Landolphia* fruit at a time, that is, a fecal clump is expected to contain multiple seeds from one fruit, it is not very likely (though not completely impossible) that only one *Landolphia* seed was contained in a fecal clump with many *Saba* seeds. In addition, direct observations of feeding at the time showed that the chimpanzees more often fed on *Saba* than *Landolphia*.

Although this result is preliminary and we may need more data by performing additional random sampling of fruits, simple measurements of the length and width of a seed seem to distinguish these two species with an accuracy of close to 90%. There are, of course, more accurate ways to discriminate the species, for example, by germination tests to confirm the species by the characteristics of their seedlings or by DNA analyses to genetically identify species. However, measuring sizes is far easier for field researchers. Thus, this may be useful for future studies of chimpanzee seed dispersal and/or fecal analyses at and around Mahale, especially on unhabituated chimpanzee groups whose direct observation is often difficult but who may share similar food items with the M group. A similar method may also be applicable to other study sites where *Saba-Landolphia* (and other confusing sets of species or genera) coexist, with modifications of the formula with their own data sets.

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<NOTE>

Homosexual Interactions among Young Female Wild Chimpanzees: An Example of Social Pretend Play?

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INTRODUCTION

Homosexual behavior among animals is ethologically defined as a display of courtship that involves mounting and/or genital contact and stimulation between same-sex individuals (Vasey & Sommer 2006, p10). Several studies have examined homosexual behaviors between two females of the genus *Pan*. Wild female bonobos (*P. paniscus*) frequently engage in homosexual interactions such as genito-genital rubbing (GG-rubbing; e.g., Fruth & Hohmann 2006). Conversely, wild female chimpanzees (*P. troglodytes*) rarely engage in homosexual interactions (Zamma & Fujita 2004), even though young captive female chimpanzees in a group engaged in GG-rubbing as frequently as did wild bonobos (Anestis 2004). During homosexual interactions, it has been observed that most wild female bonobos rub their genital regions on a lateral axis in the ventroventral position, and rarely engage in pelvic thrusts (Fruth & Hohmann 2006). Captive female chimpanzees, in contrast, rub their genital regions on a front-back axis in the dorsoventral position (Anestis 2004). Homosexual interactions between female bonobos frequently occur during feeding, when group excitement is high (Fruth & Hohmann 2006). In captive chimpanzees, however, most interactions occur during group rest periods (Anestis 2004). Only one previously observed case of homosexual interaction between chimpanzee females of the Mahale M group occurred during a relaxed situation (Zamma & Fujita 2004).

Several hypotheses have been proposed and tested regarding the function of homosexual behavior between *Pan* females (Anestis 2004; Fruth & Hohmann 2006). However, in other animal species, such as American bison (*Bison bison*) (Vervaecke & Roden 2006) or cervid species (Bartoš & Holečková 2006), some homosexual interactions between young females were interpreted as social play or biologically functionless byproducts of adaptations (Vasey & Sommer 2006). Although Anestis (2004, p481) reported that one captive female chimpanzee vocalized play-panting with play-face during a homosexual interaction, researchers have not discussed the possibility that homosexual interactions between wild *Pan* females are a pattern of social play. In this article, I describe an observed case of homosexual interaction between wild female chimpanzees, and discuss the property